THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, a request has been received from the Government of Kerala, and Cochin airport at Nedumbasseri is being considered as an embarkation point for Haj 2000.

(c) Air India has taken the following steps to enhance facilities for Haj Pilgrims:—

(i) A fulltime senior level co-ordinator has been appointed to be positioned at Jeddah to ensure smooth and improved coordination for the Haj operations; (ii) arrangements are being made to provide food, water and assistance to the Haj Pilgrims in the event of flight delay; (iii) separate areas/check-in counters/ cells are made for handling/servicing the Haj pilgrims; and (iv) arrangements are made at Jeddah Airport for transport from aircraft to terminal, assistance to fill disembarkation cards, assistance in clearing formalities, assistance to sick and aged passengers, and segregation of baggage.

Confirmation of Tickets beyond Capacity in IC-809

†2007. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 97 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th November, 1999 and state:

(a) what are the reasons that 22 confirmed tickets were issued in total for Bombay-Patna, Delhi-Patna, Delhi-Ranchi flights when there are only 20 seats in 'J' class in IC 809;

(b) whether this can happen in computerized reservation system;

(c) whether it is not against rule to provide more reservations than the number of seats available; and

(d) if so, the name of persons responsible for it and the action proposed to be taken by Govt. against them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Based on average passenger carriage on a flight,

bookings in excess of the seat available are made on commercial considerations to avoid dilution of revenue due to last minute No Show/Cancellations. Such bookings are closely monitored at Indian Airlines Central Space Control level and excess bookings if any, are adjusted.

On flight No. 809 of 5.11.1999 confirmed reservation was given to 21 passengers in 'J' class ex-Delhi (Patna-9 and Ranchi-12).

One Patna bound passenger was erroneously sent in 'J' class ex-Mumbai without any allocation. As a result of this the number of passengers ex-Delhi went upto 22 in 'J' class. As two passengers for Ranchi did not report, all the 20 passengers were adjusted. No passenger from the waiting list could, therefore, be accepted in 'J' class.

Necessary action is being taken against the erring official for sending a non-entitled passenger from Mumbai to Patna in 'J' class.

Airlink between State Capitals and district Headquarters

2008. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to introduce Allinace Air services from State Capitals to the district Headquarters which are industrially, Commercially and from tourist point of view important;

(b) if so, the suggestions received in that regard from the State Governments; and

(c) the details of action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Alliance Air has no plans to expand its network at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.